WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for allocating processing resources, the method using a

2   processor coupled to a display device and to a user input device, the method comprising:

3   displaying a list of processing resources on the display device;

4   accepting signals from the user input device to indicate the configuration of at

5   least a portion of the processing resources; and

6   configuring the selected processing resource.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the processing resources include

2   hardware processors.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   accepting signals from the user input device to indicate first and second

3   processors for configuration; and

4   automatically coupling the first processor to the second processor via a digital

5   network.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the processing resources include

2   software.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising

2   accepting first signals from the user input device to indicate a processing

3   platform to be used;

4   accepting second signals from the user input device to indicate a software

5   component to be installed; and

6·   automatically installing the software component onto the processing platform.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the software component is a server

2   component.

1   7.   The method of claim 5, wherein the software component is a client

2   component.

1   8.   A system for providing configurable resources to achieve a processing

2   environment, the system comprising

3   a configurable communication link;

4   a plurality of processing devices coupled to the communication link; and

5   a plurality of software programs coupled to the processing devices.

1   9. The system of claim 8, further comprising

2   a user interface coupled to the system; and

3   a controller for accepting commands from the user interface to configure a

4 system and for configuring the system in response to the commands.

1   10. The method of claim 1, further comprising

2   automatically managing licensing of software.

1   11. The method of claim 1, further comprising

2   visual construction of the environment via a user interface.

1   12. The method of claim 10, further comprising

2   remote administration of the environment.

1   13. A method for creating a computing environment by using a computer

2 user interface, the computer user interface coupled to a display screen and to an input device

3 for generating signals in response to interactions of a user, the method comprising:

4   accepting a first signal from the input device which enables the user to specify

5 a type of operating system for use in the computing environment;

6   accepting a second signal from the input device which enables the user to

7 specify a type of processor for use within the computing environment;

8   activating an operating system of the specified type to run in the computing

9 environment; and

10   activating a processor of the specified type to run in the computing

11 environment.

1   14. The method of claim 13 further comprising

2   displaying the computing environment which includes the active processor

3 and the running operating system.

1   15. In a computer network, a computer user interface system that provides

2 one or more computing environments, the computer user interface system comprising:

3   a client, and further comprising

4   a processor;

5   a browser; and,

6   a display screen;

7   a computer user interface displaying on the display screen, the computer user

8   interface having instructions for selecting one or more types of processing units, operating

9   systems and software programs;

10   in response to user selection of a type of processing unit, using the processor

11   to direct the browser to display the selected processing unit which is active in the computing

12   environment;

13   in response to user selection of a type of operating system, the processor

14   directs the browser to display the selected operating system which is running in the

15   computing environment; and

16   in response to user selection of a type of software program, the processor

17   directs the browser to display the selected software program which is running in the

18   computing environment wherein the browser displays the computing environment which

19   includes the active processing unit, the running operating system and the running software

20   program.

1   16   A computer user interface for providing a computing environment

2   having one or more types of processors and operating systems, the computer user interface

3   comprising:

4   first instructions for enabling a user to specify a type of operating system for

5   use in the computing environment; and

6   second instructions for enabling the user to specify a type of processor for use

7   in the computing environment.

1   17.   The computer user interface of claim 16, further comprising:

2   a third instructions for enabling a user to specify a type of software program.

1   18.   The method of claim 13 further comprising

2   displaying an active software program for the computing environment in

3   response to user selection.

1   19.   The method of claim 13 further comprising

2   accepting a signal which allows the user to shut down the computing

3   environment.

1   20.   The method of claim 13 further comprising

2   accepting a signal which allows the user to specify a new machine to run in

3   the computing environment, activating the new machine and displaying the computing

4   environment having the active machine.

1   21.   The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2   displaying a plurality of operating system types for selection by the user.

1   22.   The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2   displaying a plurality of processor types for selection by the user.

1   23.   The method of claim 10 wherein the displaying of a plurality of

2   operating system types occurs prior to the step of accepting a first signal which enables the

3   user to specify a type of operating system.